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East Germany

REPORT

COUNTRY

TOPIC Military Information from the Lieberose Training Grounds

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EVALUATION

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PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 December 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (N/A. 1/1/53)

REMARKS

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1. On 8 November 1953 [redacted] the interior equipment of the barracks installation north of Drachhausen at the Lieberose troop training grounds was being completed by the VEB Bauunion Sued. Soviet construction engineers in civilian clothes allegedly supervised the construction work. On 8 November, about 1,000 workers were still employed at the installations. [redacted] an undetermined number of labor was to move to another construction site in Mecklenburg during November. The area was being surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and was being guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Individual soldiers and officers of the same branch of service were also observed in Drachhausen. Trucks [redacted] loaded with sand and driven by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen en route to the construction site.

2. Between 26 October and 15 November, the scheduled occupation by troops of the barracks installation east of Drachhausen had again to be postponed as the quartering buildings had not yet been completed. On 14 November, 3 quartering buildings for EM, 3 buildings for officers, 1 economic building and the guard house had been completed and were scheduled to be occupied the following week. Vehicle sheds were still under construction. Another 100 troops from Camp Forst Tauer and trucks [redacted] were employed in the clearing up of the place on and after 4 November. 2

3. [redacted]

4. On 30 October, Camp Forst Tauer was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Colonel Kalushken (phonetical spelling) (fnul) was commanding officer. 4

5. On 14 November, the camp northeast of Jamlitz was occupied by only a guard detail.

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6. Except for the guardhouse, the barracks installation east of Drachhausen was still vacant on 14 November. [redacted] the first quartering buildings were to be occupied on 17 November. Other buildings were still under construction. Troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank and motor transport insignia, were clearing up the barracks area. Four large and 3 small wooden sheds were under construction. An athletic field was being prepared south of the barracks installations in an area about 200 meters deep. About 25 to 30 empty trucks were seen near the guardhouse. [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. After the departure to their previous posts of the bulk of the 9th Mecc Div, the 80th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt, previously stationed in Spremberg, and the 1719th AAA Regt, previously stationed in the Funker Kaserne in Cottbus, are carried in Camp Forst Tauer. The two newly constructed barracks installations east and north of Drachhausen are apparently scheduled to be occupied by these two regiments. Elements of the 80th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt are believed to have been transferred to the new barracks installations south of Stammlager Zossen near Wuensdorf. The strength of these elements could not be determined. Nor is it known, whether this transfer is a permanent one.